

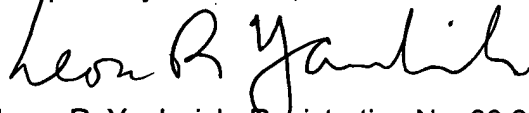
REMARKS

This amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination and addresses the issues of the final Office Action mailed November 20, 2002. Claims 1, 4-21, 40 and 65 are pending in the present application; Claims 2-3, 22-39, 41-64, 66 and 67 have been cancelled.

Applicants have amended pending Claim 1 to recite additional particulars of the addition step, namely, that the addition of the first solution, containing the conjugate, is added to the first liquid via an atomizing nozzle. An advantage of the present invention relates to the benefits of controlling the addition of the first solution to the first liquid. These benefits are readily achieved by using a nebulizer, which affords superior control over, inter alia, particle size distribution. The benefits in particle morphology gained from controlling the addition step of the process via use of an atomizing nebulizer are demonstrated in the working examples of the application. (See, e.g., Examples 4-8 on pp. 7-10 of the specification, esp. Tables I-IV.) Such features have never been addressed by the Examiner.

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicants believe that neither the Shalaby '587 reference nor any of the citations of record can be said to suggest the process of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejections set forth in the Office Action be reconsidered and withdrawn and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



Leon R. Yankwich, Registration No. 30,237
Michael R. Wesolowski, Registration No. 50,944
Attorneys for Applicants
YANKWICH & ASSOCIATES
201 Broadway
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
telephone: 617-374-3700
telecopier: 617-374-0055

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Leon R. Yankwich